

I Claim:

- 1 1. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user; said specified information being
3 owned by at least one information owner; the system comprising:
 - 4 (a) an information control unit; said information control unit comparing an
5 information use permission request with predetermined information use directions
6 for effecting said administering; said information use permission request
7 identifying at least said specified information and said respective use
8 circumstance; said information use directions including criteria prescribing
9 permitted use of said specified information;
 - 10 (b) a communication facility coupled with said information control unit for
11 effecting communication with said information control unit to receive said
12 information use permission request from said at least one information user; said
13 information control unit communicating a permitting indicator to said at least one
14 information user using said communication facility when said respective use
15 circumstance conforms with said information use directions for said specified
16 information; and
 - 17 (c) an information storage unit coupled with at least one of said information
18 control unit and said communication facility for storing said information use
19 directions.
- 1 2. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 1 wherein said
3 information control unit receives said information use directions from said at least
4 one information owner via said communication facility.
- 1 3. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 1 wherein
3 respective said information use directions are submitted by a respective submitting
4 information owner of said at least one information owner; said respective information

- 5 use directions being stored in said information storage unit associated with each
6 respective submitting information owner.
- 1 4. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 1 wherein said
3 communication facility effects communication via at least one communication milieu
4 of a plurality of communication milieux.
- 1 5. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 2 wherein said
3 communication facility effects communication via at least one communication milieu
4 of a plurality of communication milieux.
- 1 6. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 5 wherein said
3 plurality of communication milieux includes Internet web site data entry.
- 1 7. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 5 wherein said
3 plurality of communication milieux includes telephone communication using voice
4 over Internet protocol equipment.
- 1 8. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 5 wherein said
3 plurality of communication milieux includes telephone communication using a public
4 switched telephone network.
- 1 9. A system for administering permission for use of specified information in a respective
2 use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 5 wherein said
3 plurality of communication milieux includes e-mail communication via a network.

1 10. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user; said specified
3 information being owned by at least one information owner; the method comprising
4 the steps of:

5 (a) in no particular order:

6 (1) provide an information control unit;

7 (2) provide a communication facility coupled with said information
8 control unit; and

9 (3) provide an information storage unit coupled with at least one of said
10 information control unit and said communication facility;

11 (b) storing predetermined information use directions in said information storage
12 unit;

13 (c) operating said communication facility to effect communication with said
14 information control unit to receive an information use permission request from
15 said at least one information user; said information use permission request
16 identifying at least said specified information and said respective use
17 circumstance;

18 (d) operating said information control unit to compare said information use
19 permission request with said predetermined information use directions for
20 effecting said administering; said information use directions including criteria
21 prescribing permitted use of said specified information; and

22 (e) communicating a permitting indicator to said at least one information user
23 using said communication facility when said respective use circumstance
24 conforms with said information use directions for said specified information.

1 11. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 10
3 wherein said information control unit receives said information use directions from
4 said at least one information owner via said communication facility.

1 12. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 10
3 wherein respective said information use directions are submitted by a respective
4 submitting information owner of said at least one information owner; said respective
5 information use directions being stored in said information storage unit associated
6 with each respective submitting information owner.

1 13. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 10
3 wherein said communication facility effects communication via at least one
4 communication milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

1 14. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 11
3 wherein said communication facility effects communication via at least one
4 communication milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

1 15. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user; said specified
3 information being owned by at least one information owner; the method comprising
4 the steps of:

5 (a) establishing predetermined information use directions; said information use
6 directions including use criteria prescribing permitted use of said specified
7 information and identifying criteria identifying a respective said information
8 owner owning said specified information;

9 (b) receiving an information use permission query from said at least one
10 information user; said information use permission query identifying at least said
11 specified information and said respective use circumstance;

- 12 (c) comparing said information use permission query with said information use
13 directions;
14 (d) providing a permitting indicator to said at least one information user when said
15 respective use circumstance conforms with said information use directions for
16 said specified information.

1 16. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 15
3 wherein said information permission use query identifies described information
4 desired for use, and wherein said permitting indicator includes said described
5 information.

1 17. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 15
3 wherein information use permission query is received via at least one communication
4 milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

1 18. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 16
3 wherein information use permission query is received via at least one communication
4 milieu of a plurality of communication milieux.

1 19. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 18
3 wherein said plurality of communication milieux includes Internet web site data entry
4 and e-mail communication via a network.

1 20. A method for administering permission for use of specified information in a
2 respective use circumstance by at least one information user as recited in Claim 18
3 wherein said plurality of communication milieux includes telephonic communication;

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4 said telephonic communication including at least voice over Internet protocol
5 communication, public switched telephone network communication, facsimile
6 communication and wireless telephone communication.